Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-80 (canceled)

Claim 81 (previously presented): Method of controlling an animated electronic pet associated with a user of an electronic system comprising:

sending a plurality of pet parameters from the electronic system;

wherein said plurality of pet parameters determine a behavior of an animated electronic pet,

setting a state of said animated electronic pet in said electronic system to absent state in response to sending said plurality of pet parameters;

resetting said plurality of pet parameters and setting said state to present if said plurality of pet parameters are not returned within predetermined time period; and

modifying the behavior of the animated electronic pet in said electronic system in accordance with said state, wherein modifying the behavior includes displaying an image associated with the animated electronic pet at the electronic system if the state is present.

Claim 82 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 further comprising storing image data of said animated electronic pet.

Claim 83 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 further comprising detecting one or more events corresponding to said animated electronic pet when said state is absent in said electronic system and updating at least one of said pet parameters based on current pet parameters with each detected event such that the behavior of said animated electronic pet is continuously modified with each detected event.

Claim 84 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 further comprising sending information representing said predetermined time period along with said plurality of pet parameters.

Claim 85 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 further comprising receiving said plurality of pet parameters at said electronic system after sending said plurality of pet parameters.

Claim 86 (previously presented): Method of claim 85 further comprising changing said state of said animated electronic pet to existence state in response to receiving said plurality of pet parameters.

Claim 87 (previously presented): Method of claim 85 wherein said received plurality of pet parameters are a modified version of said sent plurality of pet parameters.

Claim 88-93 (canceled)

Claim 94 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 wherein modifying the behavior in said electronic system of the animated electronic pet includes removing the image associated with the animated electronic pet from a display of the electronic system if the state is absent state.

Claim 95 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 wherein modifying the behavior in said electronic system of the animated electronic pet includes displaying, at the electronic system, a second image of the animated electronic pet leaving an area if the state is absent state.

Claim 96 (previously presented): Method of claim 95 wherein the area is a room.

Claim 97 (previously presented): Method of claim 81 wherein modifying the behavior in said electronic system of the animated electronic pet includes displaying, at the

electronic system, an animation of the animated electronic pet leaving an area if the state is absent state.

Claim 98 (previously presented):   Method of claim 97 wherein the area is a room.

Claim 99 (previously presented):   Method of Claim 81 wherein said electronic system is a computer.

Claim 100 (new):   Method of controlling an agent associated with a user of an electronic system comprising:

sending an agent parameter from the electronic system, wherein the agent parameter is at least one of an inner information and an outer information, wherein the inner information and outer information define a behavior associated with the agent that is represented by a plurality of animated images;

setting a state of said agent in said electronic system to absent state in response to sending the agent parameter;

resetting said agent parameter and setting said state to present if said agent parameter is not returned within a predetermined time period; and

modifying the behavior of the agent in said electronic system in accordance with said state, wherein modifying the behavior includes displaying at least one of the plurality of animated images associated with the agent at the electronic system if the state is present.

Claim 101 (new):   Method of claim 100 further comprising storing image data of the animated images.

Claim 102 (new):   Method of claim 100 further comprising detecting one or more events corresponding to said agent when said state is absent state in said electronic system and updating said agent parameters based on current agent parameters with each detected event such that the behavior of said virtual agent is continuously modified with each detected event.

4

Claim 103 (new):   Method of claim 100 further comprising sending information representing said predetermined time period along with said agent parameter.

Claim 104 (new):   Method of claim 100 further comprising receiving said agent parameter at said electronic system after sending said agent parameter.

Claim 105 (new):   Method of claim 104 further comprising changing said state of said agent to existence state in response to receiving said agent parameter.

Claim 106 (new):   Method of claim 104, wherein said received agent parameter is a modified version of said sent agent parameter.

Claim 107 (new):   Method of claim 100, wherein modifying the behavior in said electronic system of the agent includes removing the image associated with the agent from a display of the electronic system if the state is absent state.

Claim 108 (new):   Method of claim 100, wherein modifying the one of the behavior in said electronic system of the agent includes displaying, at the electronic system, an animation of the agent leaving an area if the state is absent state.

Claim 109 (new):   Method of claim 108 wherein the area is a room.

Claim 110 (new):   Method of Claim 100, wherein said electronic system is a computer.

Claim 111 (new): Method of Claim 100, wherein said inner information is directed to a personality trait.

Claim 112 (new): Method of Claim 100, wherein said inner information includes at least one of age, sex, intelligence, vigor, friendship with the keeper, hunger, happiness, cleanliness, bio-rhythm,   noise,   friendship   with   the   counterpart,   positiveness/negativeness,

cheerfulness/gloominess, gentleness/coldness, concentration/diffuseness, chic/awkward, fashionability, attractiveness and taste for gourmet.

Claim 113 (new): Method of Claim 100, wherein said outer information is directed to an environmental condition.

Claim 114 (new): Method of Claim 100, wherein said outer information includes at least one of position, comfortableness of a room, user action and guest action.